

The monthly A*C*E

Serving the Free Radio community since 1982
ANARC member since 1983

September 2004



DEAR LISTENER:

Thanks for your letter/QSL request. ART is dedicated to bringing you the best in Alternative music and features. Listener response is key to bringing you what you want to hear. Get involved. Send tapes of YOUR favorite music. The airwaves not only belong to those who pay the dues; those who don't; they belong to you, too.

VERIFICATION
FROM AMERICA'S MOST ACTIVE PIRATE STATION

THE LISTENER: JOHN TARTHUR

THE DATE: 7/16/92 THE TIME: 0213 - 0223 UTC

THE PLACE: 7415 kHz AM



THE TRANSMITTER:

THE BIG HEAVY AM ONE
THE LITTLE JAPANESE ONE

44 METERS
41 METERS
39 METERS

TAX FOR CALL
LOOK FOR US ON: AND REPORT, JOHN!
HERE IS YOUR DESERVED QSL!

THE ONLY GOOD
POLITICIAN IS
A DEAD POLITICIAN!

OWNED AND OPERATED BY
= DJ DR. LOBOTOMY =
YOUR ILLEGAL RADIO FRIEND

TAKE TO THE STREETS
AM & FM TORCH
YOUR LOCAL TOP-40
PIRATE STATION
TAKE IT BACK
PLEASE RECYCLE

"KILL YOUR
TELEVISION"

E HEARD WORLDWIDE

NO RESERVE

ANGER IS MY BUSINESS

ANNEAD BEEN HARMLESS

ATTENDING EVER MATTERS

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RELAYS 600' TAPE

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SEND US YOUR
FAVORITE MUSIC
TAPES

from the desk of the Managing Editor

Ye Olde Editor: ACEHdq@localnet.com
or: (585) 365-8870 (not collect)

Turned out to be a slow month for activity and reports, which is about normal for summer but makes for a very slim issue. With Labor Day upon us vacations are ending and school is about to begin for another year (if it hasn't already in your locale). I hope you got any antenna and Ground system work done while you had the free time. In this neck of the woods, at least, it hasn't been much of a summer and it looks like an early winter, too; we've had some trees turning color since early August!

Let's hope there's more activity as conditions improve.

Onward!

FRN THE FREE RADIO NETWORK
"Pirate Radio Invades the World Wide Web!"



- ✓ Audio Clips
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ QSLs
- ✓ The ACE
- ✓ Chat
- ✓ News
- ✓ The Grapevine
- ✓ Over 1000 Links

DiaLogs

September 2004

Lee Reynolds, 10 Block Avenue #55, Claremont, NH 03743
email: dial0gs@adelphia.net

AIM: KD1SQ / ICQ: 4139354 / Yahoo IM: KD1SQ

(Next deadline for submissions: 18th September, 2004)

Format of a log entry:
Date Heard / Time Heard (in UTC) / Frequency (in kHz) / Mode / Details of Transmission

Modes:

A = AM F = FM L = Lower Sideband U = Upper Sideband

Reporting a signal's quality:

The simplest way of doing this is to judge the signal as being "Poor", "Fair" or "Good" and reporting it as such.
If you're one of them highfalutin' types with radios that are smarter'n your dawg, you probably use the SIO system

S = Signal (strength) I = Interference O = Overall (quality)

- S, I and O are all rated between 0 and 5, 0 being worst, 5 being best. (As I recall, there were written tables for these values but I haven't seen one in a very long time. If you have the details somewhere, send 'em along to me!)

LATE LOGS

(Okay – I was remiss, not William, in failing to get this into last month's column – so, here it is in this month's instead!)

Ragnar Radio (ragnarradio@yahoo.com)

- 07/10/04, 1410-1435, 6950A – mx – Country & Western. IDs at 1415, 1430. OM annner discussed the possibility of turning his antenna 90 degrees to see how he then got out, also mention of a "Delta Loop" at the 1430 break. (Pse QSL WH-PA Fair)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Nothing reported this month.

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Black Mountain Radio/WBMR (wbmrradio@hotmail.com)

- 07/18/04, 0255-0350, 6925A – mx – Irish, Metal. Beavis & Butthead clips. (WH-IL Fair)(WS-TN Poor)

Captain Morgan (FRN)

- 08/01/04, 2258, 6925U – mx – "And the Wind Cries Mary", "Fame", "Brown Sugar", Who'll Stop the Rain". (AF Poor)
- 08/04/04, 0019-0034*, 6925U – mx – Van Morrison. ID "You're in the Pirate Zone with Captain Morgan!" (CL-MA 343)

KIPM (kipm_outerlimits@hotmail.com/Elkhorn)

- 07/31/04, 0113-0130, 6946U – "The Legend of Tiamat". (AF Fair)(WS-TN Fair)

Mind Control Radio (Unknown)

- 08/15/04, 0052-0056, 6925A – "This is Commander Bunny" in sped up audio clip. Drifty. (WH-IL Fair)

Radio First Termer (Unknown)

- 07/30/04, 0109, 6925U – QRMed by WHYP? (AF Poor)

Renegade Talk Radio (www.renegadetalkradio.com)

- 08/07/04, 2315-2339, 6925A – IDs, mention of Michael Douglas, an Alec Baldwin book, "Who wants to be President", phone call. (WS-TN Poor)

Undercover Radio (undercoverradio@mail.com/Merlin)

- 08/01/04, 0230-0424+, 6925U – the good Doctor Benway soothes us and commands us to destroy Commander Bunny. (WH-IL Poor)

WBNY/The Rodent Revolution (Unknown)

- 08/01/04, 2331, 6950A – mx – "Keep Me Hanging On". Commander Bunny seems to be directing some comments at Al Fansome. (AF Poor)
- 08/02/04, 0016-0045, 6240A – A Air America political talk segment is interrupted by Commander Bunny who has a special message for Al Fansome. (AF Poor)(WS-TN Poor)

WHYP (whyp6925@yahoo.com/Belfast)

- 07/26/04, 2319-2330, 6925A – James Brownyard live giving a time check and commenting on the poor propagation conditions. (CL-MA 232)
- 07/30/04, 0113, 6925A – Ravi Brownyard giving weather report. (AF Poor)
- 07/30/04, 0055, 6952A – Maryanne is mentioned. (WH-IL Poor)
- 08/01/04, 0118-0154, 6953A- mx – Bowie, Donnie Iris. James Brownyard muses about slowing down or quitting Pirate Radio, asks that his listeners bear with him during this period of "writer's block". (WS-TN Fair)(AF Poor)(GB-MI 454 – Greg reported 6955A)
- 08/02/04, 0050-0118*, 6925A – "Root Beer Madness" – a KIPM Parody show. (AF Poor)(GZ-OH Poor)(WS-TN Fair)
- 08/02/04, 0125-0140, 6925A – a strange (but amusing) tale about the crazy woman chasing him to a shopping center. "Little green crabs are not always bad – especially if they're imaginary!" (GB-MI 454)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED**Captain Morgan**

- 08/07/04, 0242-0326, 6924A – mx – Rock. Possible ID at 0301. (GZ-OH Poor)
- 08/09/04, 0038, 6925A – mx – Garth Brooks. (WS-TN Fair)

Radio Pirana International

- 07/26/04, 0314, 6307A – talk in Spanish – no ID heard. (WS-TN Poor)

UNID

- 07/19/04, 0115, 6925U – mx – German style polkas sung in English. (WH-IL Fair)
- 07/25/04, 0012, 6925U – mx – Christmas carols and songs. (AF Fair)
- 07/30/04, 0105, 6925U – mx – Disco. Poor copy. (WH-IL Poor)
- 07/31/04, 0108, 6925U – mx – "Time Warp", "Spooky", "Tubular Bells". (AF Fair)
- 07/31/04, 2252-2300, 6925U – OTR – "Dragnet", "Country of the Blind". (WS-TN Fair)
- 08/01/04, 0425-0435+, 6925U – mx – Rock. Brief anncmt by OM, then OM vocals. (CL-MA 232)
- 08/01/04, 1304-1309, 6925A – OTR – "Amos'n'Andy". (WS-TN Fair)
- 08/02/04, 0147-0211, 6950U – mx – Donovan, "All the Young Dudes". Comedy at 0230, off. (AF Fair)(WS-TN Fair)
- 08/06/04, 0045-0125, 6924A – mx – Steve Miller. Mx and talk, very weak. (GB-MI 252)
- 08/06/04, 0308, 6925U – very weak signal. A little mx, possibly a male voice. (AF Poor)
- 08/08/04, 2233-2346*, 6925U – start of program with the theme tune of "The Good, The Bad and the Ugly" then into a numbers station parody. Speech at 2343, language unknown, synthesized tones at 2347. No IDs. (GZ-OH 232)
- 08/15/04, 0113-0116, 6925U – mx – Noel Coward-like. "Howdy, I'm Uncle (???) from next door!" (WH-IL Fair)

MAIL DROPS

These are the relevant – for this month – addresses to which you should send your reports as appropriate (along with at least three first class stamps to handle mailing costs) if you're doing things by snail mail or if the station doesn't use email.

Don't forget that foreign drops need IRCs or dollar bills instead of US postage stamps.

Semi-foreign drops (read: Canadians) need cash or IRCs but might accept cowry shells, beads or small hand mirrors. Poutine is an accepted medium of exchange only within the province of Quebec.

Of course, if you really want to cover all the bases – get with it and spend the vast sum of \$49 bucks (after rebate) for a Web TV box – as time goes by, more and more of the QSL business is being transacted via email.

Belfast: Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711

Elkhorn: P.O. Box 69, Elkhorn, NE 68022

Merlin: Box 293, Merlin, Ontario N0P 1W0, CANADA

QSL CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE

Greg Brown, Michigan (GB-MI)

Al Fansome (AF)

William Hassig, 102 North Russel Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056-2443 (WH-IL)

William Hvozda, 6172 US 62, Tionesta, PA 16353 (WH-PA)

Chris Lobdell, Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180 (CL-MA)

Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, TN 37950 (WS-TN)

George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)

TEN (and TWENTY) YEARS AFTER...

And a quick look back at our Golden Age of activity...

September 1984: The ACE was 20 pages long with a Radio Ganymede QSL on the cover. DiaLogs was 7 pages, including 2 NAm MW, 3 NAm FM, 20 NAm SW, 1 Euro (Dublin) and 10 clandestines reported by at least 32 reporters.

September 1994: The ACE was 24 pages long with an unidentified photo QSL on the cover. DiaLogs was 5 pages, featuring 35 NAm SW, 1 Euro (Dublin), 1 Oceania (KIWI), and 10 unIDs from about 11 contributors.

RAMBLINGS

Remember, folks – it's "dial0gs" not "dialogs" if you're sending email reports to me – a certain person (no names mentioned but he's crusty by nature and known by a three letter acronym!) was complaining that my email address wasn't working....

Well, a slightly thinner month this time around with fewer members checking in and seemingly somewhat lower activity but that's to be expected for the time of year. Another couple of months and the good listening conditions will be settling in. Yay!

Our faithful (and much appreciated) correspondent Al Fansome reports that Commander Bunny has been sending him special messages. Don't worry Al, you only need fear if it turns out that the Commander is a gerbil in rabbit's clothing! Now *that* could be nasty, especially when you're down there checking that tire pressure!

Greg Brown in Michigan (he didn't say where) is a new correspondent. Greg's even put up a dipole cut for the magic frequency, too. Greg, you *will* keep an eye open for any of those nasty Pirates trying to hijack your antenna and using it to transmit instead of receive, won't you?

Apologies to William Hvozda – got your report but failed to post it last column – my bad but I was just a little bit distracted by Real Life events at the time.

Well, yours truly is still an unemployed bum at the moment – the market is tough. Oh well. There's a possibility of something in Virginia, of all places – now that'd be a change from NH, that much I'm sure of. Keep watching this space for the next thrilling installment of my particular soap opera!

Speaking of that and thereby having time on my hands – boy, am I ever P.O.'ed at the noise level here at the shack! I can't even play radio to take my mind off my problems. Gah! Maybe moving to Virginia will be an improvement – at least if I live in a nice quiet spot, QRM-wise.

Ah, new and interesting stuff – I'm going to be doing a workup on the new WINRADiO (*don't ask me why they capitalize it like that – makes it a PITA to type!*) G313i radio receiver – that's the one that plugs into your computer's PCI slot (like the G303i) but has its own DSP/sound capabilities so it doesn't need to use your sound card as its IF/audio stages. I've been hearing good things about the beast and people have said it has some very nice spectrum display capabilities in it. Of course, given my lousy radio listening location I'm going to be putting it into a system, packing it in the car and then visiting with a ham buddy of mine in Vermont for a few days to test it out where you can still hear a signal that's less than S8...

Okay, we're done for this month. Send your logs, people - we need them! I'd do some listening and reporting too but Radio Hell won't let me...

STATISTICS

Okay – stats are going away for the time being – I don't have the spreadsheet that I produced 'em with any more – or the application, either. When I do get things back together again, we'll take a look at getting them in once more! Assuming you guys want them.

PROPAGATION

What it be:

Okay, just like the sea, radio waves below a certain frequency display tide-like behavior that is dependent upon the time of day at your location and at the target location. (*Arr, me hearties – 'tis a most appropriate metaphor!*) Listen for a given area at one time and you'll hear nothing. Listen, say, twelve hours later and you'll hear find you're looking for. That's a real simple description of a very complex subject.

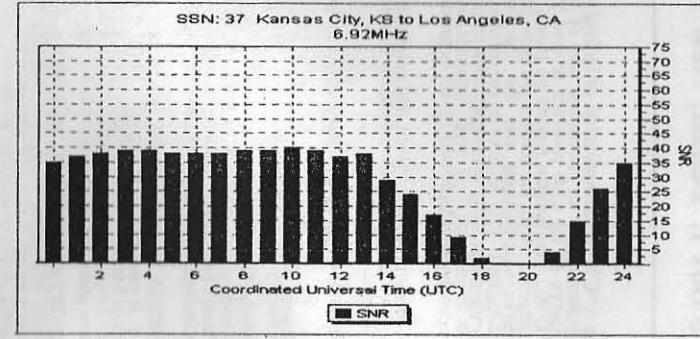
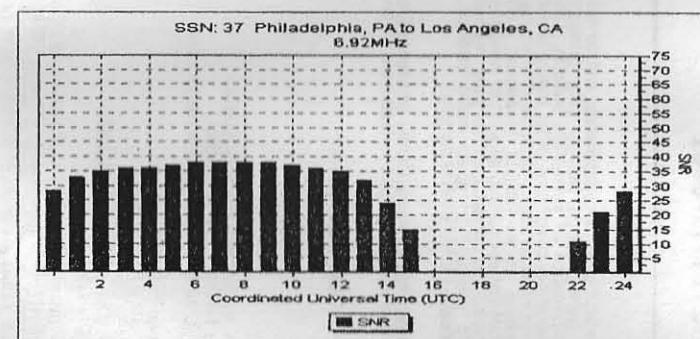
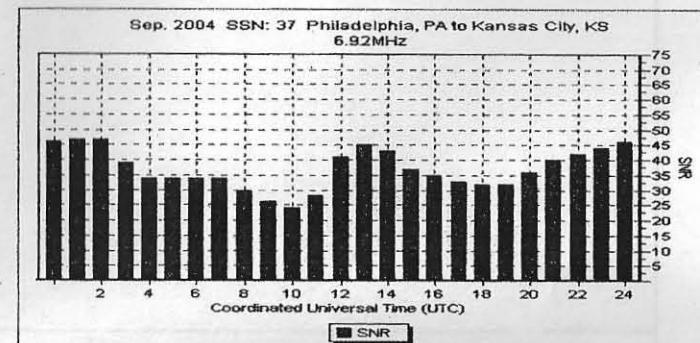
The tables below can be looked upon as being like tide charts for a certain part of the world and a certain frequency. The higher the "tide" displayed, the better the radio path between the two points on the chart at that time on that frequency.

To try to provide useful propagation for the ACE readership I cover the most common Pirate frequencies month by month and I produce tables that roughly divide the USA into eastern, central and western sections and the propagation paths between them.

If you live, say, in Boston and want to try to listen for KMUD out in the western part of the country, you would check the table that says "Philadelphia, PA to Los Angeles, CA". This chart shows the radio "tides" between the two points that approximate where you are and where KMUD might be. Now look at the height of the bars – between 0200 and 0900 (that's UTC) looks to offer the best east-west listening path for you. Likewise, 1600-2100 might not be the best time to listen.

Caveat: These charts are rough guides only – radio propagation is even stranger than a Republican Senator who believes that poor folk need a break more than the obscenely wealthy do – you sometimes hear the darnedest things come out of nowhere when you least expect it. Use them as a guide but don't let it stop you listening for a target when it says propagation is at its poorest – just use them as indicators of "best chances"!

If you want to do more serious reading about propagation the book "The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook" is a pretty good read on the subject and even us po' folks who can't afford RX-340s can understand it!



the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS
PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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